PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

There will be a public hearing meeting of the **Finance Labor Subcommittee** of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County on **Tuesday, June 21, 2005** at the hour of **3:00 P.M.** in the Board Room, Room 569, County Building, 118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois to consider the following:

271173   URGING THE PASSAGE OF THE SECURE AMERICA AND ORDERLY IMMIGRATION ACT OF 2005 (PROPOSED RESOLUTION). Submitting a Proposed Resolution Sponsored by Roberto Maldonado, County Commissioner.

I am submitting this Resolution as a New Item at the May 17, 2005 Board Meeting to be referred to the Labor Subcommittee. The Resolution urges the passage of a comprehensive immigration reform initiative known as "The Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act of 2005."

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the United States were founded by immigrants, who have traveled from around the world to seek a better life; and

WHEREAS, the United States has an undocumented population of eleven million immigrants, including half a million in Illinois, more than 300,000 of which reside in Cook County; and

WHEREAS, Cook County's undocumented immigrants fill key roles in our economy such as paying taxes (including contributions to Social Security that they cannot receive back), raising families, and contributing to our schools, churches, neighborhoods and communities; and

WHEREAS, our current immigration system contributes to long backlogs, labor abuses, countless deaths on the border and vigilante violence and is in dire need of reform to meet the challenges of the 21st Century; and

WHEREAS, any comprehensive reform must involve a path to citizenship for these hardworking immigrants, as well as reunification of families and a safe and orderly process for enabling willing immigrant workers to fill essential jobs in our economy and ensure full labor rights; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Representative Luis Gutierrez has joined with U.S. Senators Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts and John McCain of Arizona to offer a comprehensive U.S. immigration reform law known as "The Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act"; and

WHEREAS, the immigration initiative severely punishes illegal employment practices while creating a path to earned permanent legal status for individuals who have been working in the United States, paying taxes, obeying the law and learning English and protecting workers by ensuring the right to change jobs, join a union and report abusive employment situations; and

WHEREAS, modernizing our antiquated and dysfunctional immigration system will uphold our nation's basic values of fairness, equal opportunity and respect for the law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the President and the Members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby support comprehensive immigration reform and memorialize the Illinois Congressional delegation to urge the passage of "The Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act of 2005 (SB 1033 and HB 2330)" that allows every hardworking, law-abiding individual to achieve the American Dream; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be delivered to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate and the Illinois Congressional Delegation.

*Referred to the Committee on Finance Labor Subcommittee on 5/17/05.

The public may testify at this meeting. Persons wishing to testify should give their name and the name of any organization they are representing to the Secretary to the Board, 118 North Clark Street, Room 567, County Building, Telephone: (312) 603-6127. Also you can register at the above location, at the time of the meeting. Each organization will be limited to one speaker. Each speaker will be limited to 3 minutes. Speakers are requested to submit 30 copies of any written statement to the committee.

_____
Michelle Harris, Secretary

Chairman: Murphy
Vice-Chairman: Moreno
Members: Butler, Gorman, Hansen, Maldonado, Sims